

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Lillehammer Baptists go for the gold in witness

By Mike Creswell

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (BP) — When you prepare for the Olympics, you've got to "go for the gold" no matter what you do.

Just ask Roald Juliussen, pastor of Lillehammer Baptist Church.

Juliussen, a former missionary to Zaire, attacked the Olympics with the same passion for ministry that his country's athletes applied to training for skiing, skating, and other winter events.

He took a volunteer evangelism team from his church to the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville, France, and has prepared his church for the Lillehammer Games even longer — for four years.

"I think this congregation was the first to congratulate the commune of Lillehammer for winning" the right to play host to the Games, he said with a smile.

It was a sizable undertaking for the 76-member congregation housed in an attractive building a few blocks from downtown Lillehammer. The church threw open its doors and invited Olympics fans to come for coffee or to special nightly services, all under the theme: "Christ's Way through Norway."

A daily coffeehouse featured a large-screen TV showing Olympics events nonstop. Some days the church's young people hauled a sled equipped with a coffee urn to serve shivering Olympics fans waiting in line for events.

Each night the church offered worship services with special music, dramas, and Bible-based messages. A 15-member Southern Baptist evangelism team used the

church as its home base through a special partnership worked out between Juliussen and Southern Baptist missionary Fred Dallas, the team's coordinator.

Dallas, of Friendswood, Texas, has been in Lillehammer since last October preparing for the Olympics and has preached in the church almost every weekend he has been in town. "Fred has an open door here. He's a man who has gifts to make contacts with people outside the church," Juliussen explained in an interview in Lillehammer.

Dallas emphasized the partnership with the church was just that — a good working arrangement that pleased everyone. "We really did want to work alongside them, not just use their facilities and go home," he said.

But the church also welcomed other groups that came to minister during the Olympics: French evangelicals, Norwegian Baptist youths and seminary students, a group from Spurgeon's College in London, and others.

The church base gave the visiting Southern Baptist team another platform for ministry. Team members spent many hours there talking to young people about their faith. They also found themselves giving ministry advice to Norwegian seminary students headed to their first pastorates in coming months.

Lillehammer Baptists also took part in an interdenominational church committee that brought Baptists, Pentecostals, Orthodox, Reformed believers, Roman Catholics, and Salvation Army members together with the pre-



HOCKEY HALL WITNESSING — Southern Baptist missionary Wayne Jenkins explains — over the noise of an Olympic ice hockey crowd — the Olympics-related evangelistic pins adorning his cap. Jenkins joined fellow missionaries and volunteers from Norway and the United States in an evangelism effort in Lillehammer, Norway. Olympic pins are eagerly collected by

dominant Lutheran Church, the state church of Norway.

"We hope such cooperation will last past the Olympics," said George Hille, a retired Lutheran bishop and chairman of the Olympic Church Committee. Hille

visited Lillehammer Baptist Church to chat with Juliussen about Baptist work and looked on approvingly at the busy comings and goings of visitors.

While the visiting Southern Baptist team had kind words for

spectators, who buy, sell, and swap them. During the hockey match between Russia and Germany, Jenkins and a fellow missionary used the pins to start a conversation with a German family, then explained the plan of salvation and gave them Christian literature. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

the church's ministry, they reserved their highest praise for Juliussen's wife, Solveig.

She really went for the gold — taking on the mammoth task of doing their laundry.

Creswell writes for FMB.

Christians fight recall

Conservative Christian school board members have withstood a recall drive in Vista, Calif., that aimed to oust them from their positions of influence over local public school policy and curricula.

Opponents of school board president Deidre Holliday and members Joyce Lee and John Tyndall failed to collect the 9,150 signatures needed to proceed with a recall initiative in the San Diego suburb of 76,000.

The Coalition for Mainstream Education, formed to head off the prospect of the school board with Christians in the majority, promised to continue the recall campaign.

Leslie Brazier, spokesperson for a group that organized to fight the recall, described the recall effort as "religious bigotry."

Among the issues stirring controversy in the school district is a proposal to include a discussion of creationism where appropriate in student materials.

Bulgaria sets restrictions

Bulgaria, for decades an officially-athiest, communist satellite of the defunct Soviet Union, now plans to crack down on "sects and cults" that will probably include Baptists.

Most evangelical churches in the country are treated as sects and are widely expected to fall under the recently-passed Bulgarian Parliament law requiring registration with the government.

Orthodox and Catholic churches are exempted, as are Jewish synagogues and Moslem mosques. Other church groups with a growing presence in the country were not included.

Registration could be denied to any church or para-church organization by a commission set up under the law to review applications.

Nikolay Nedelchev, a spokesman for the Bulgarian Evangelical Alliance said, "We consider this meager persecution compared to the communists."

Looking Back...

10 years ago

February Cooperative Program contributions by Mississippi Baptists amounted to more than \$1.4 million, the second largest figure in state convention history. The largest offering ever given was in June 1983 — just over \$1.5 million.

20 years ago

The **Baptist Record** circulation punches through the 115,000 mark, making it one of the top newsmagazines in the Southern Baptist Convention. Nearly 80% of Mississippi's churches participate in the Every Family Plan.

50 years ago

A Baptist mother, stunned to discover teenage boys leaving the numerous "peep joints" at the Mississippi State Fair, calls for Christians to unite in a campaign to rid the fair of such bad influences on the state's youths.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



Election at Disneyworld

The election of president of the Southern Baptist Convention has been a huge item of business at the annual meeting for the past 15 years. Plans have been carefully made, effectively executed, and the desired results obtained. The Orlando Convention in June is unlikely to be different.

Jerry Vines, former SBC president, set the scene for the 1994 Convention at the most recent First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., Annual Pastors School, where he nominated Fred Wolfe for SBC president. The school has been the spawning grounds for other SBC presidents. Wolfe, Mobile pastor and chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, flew in to Jacksonville to receive his endorsement. There, the unofficial College of Cardinals sent up the smoke which is tantamount to election.

Meanwhile, down in Orlando, affable pastor Jim Henry cleared his throat and said he was seriously considering the possibility of being a candidate. Both men are in

the fundamental/conservative group, both are 56, and both have been effective pastors. Wolfe's support seems to be snowballing through the ranks. Morris Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president, requested the Executive Committee to "pray for Bro. Fred" as he contemplates the SBC presidency.

This plea was a bit too much for all the Executive Committee members; at the closing session, Florida member J.C. Mitchell requested the group to pray for Jim Henry during the agony of his decision. They all hastily agreed to do this.

"I have not sought, nor am I running," Wolfe told the Baptist Press.

For several years a group of the fundamental/conservatives have met for fellowship and to discuss ways to take over the state conventions. They did so again Feb. 23 in a Nashville hotel, immediately following an Executive Committee meeting. The press was excluded. In fact, Bob Terry, editor of the Missouri Word &

Way newspaper and other reporters were asked to leave.

James Richards of Baton Rouge, La., said they met for a concentrated time of prayer, praying for revival in the nation, God's direction for the SBC, and for blessings on various ministries. Naturally, then, no editor would be permitted to attend a prayer meeting. Fred Wolfe did attend and said, "These are good people," upon an early departure.

The convention will meet in Jim Henry's hometown. There will be many Floridians present but signs of the time forecast that Fred Wolfe will be the next SBC president. Fred has served the fundamental/conservative wing well and on their calendar it is his time.

Jim Henry has also served well albeit not as politically. "I would feel virtually all these present would support Wolfe," said Richards at the Nashville meeting. They control the gavel and the votes. Fred Wolfe will be the next SBC president. Sorry Jim, maybe in a couple of years.

THE FRAGMENTS

Songs in the night

Imagine an ice storm in which the rain falls, freezes immediately coating everything with sheets of ice. Soon the weight of the ice will cause utility lines and sagging trees to snap. Lovely live oaks, pecans, cedars, magnolias, and water oaks are ruined. The scene is like a South Pacific atoll in World War II. The artillery and naval bombardment has sheared the trees. North Mississippi favored a war zone after the storm.

Tupelo is no stranger to storms. In 1936 a tornado ravaged the city, killing hundreds and leaving a wake of destruction and sorrow. The same could be said of Cleveland, Ruleville, Oxford... and the list could continue. You awoke to the sound of power saws. The citizenry rose to the occasion. Electricity was off, homes were cold, businesses were closed — even if you were able to get there.

Churches opened their doors. Family life centers were strewn with mattresses and sleeping bags. Pickup trucks, power saws, and willing volunteers were the preferred items. It was this way from Rosedale to Rienzi, Oxford to Okolona, or Clarksdale to Corinth. Still the people fought back.

One lady stood weeping in front of her cold house. A truck

came, a man and several high school boys began sawing, cleaning, stacking, and soon were on the road again. Women made coffee and sandwiches for the utility workers and took to the road to distribute them.

Jim Didlake and those hardy men on the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief truck rolled in from shaken California and headed for the Delta. Food was being served to hungry workers in Cleveland within a few hours.

Other vans owned and operated by the WMU, individual churches, and their volunteer crews are a real asset to the state of Mississippi. First Church, Yazoo City, filled a truck with blankets, candles, lamps, and batteries and rushed it to their neighbors. "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (Prov 17:17).

Brookhaven, sister city of Cleveland, had dump trucks, saws, and loaders headed north soon after they heard of conditions there. Meridian pastors sent 32 workers to clean yards. Delta women had full freezers and no electricity; they solved two problems as they cooked the contents for the volunteers. "We ate high on the hog for several days," said a weary line worker.

At Delta State University the BSU swung into action as Bill Kirkpatrick led the students on a mission trip to clean houses, yards, comfort the people, and share spiritual victories. This ministry continues even as T-shirts proclaimed the individuals to have survived the "great ice storm of '94". Ryan Whitley, pastor of First Church in Cleveland said, "There was more contact and conversation with neighbors than we had ever experienced before. Suddenly, we had time for each other."

It was not all Mr. Good Samaritan. Greed and generosity walked the same streets, but most people were so busy pulling a neighbor from the ditch that they didn't notice.

Now the heroic are about gone. People are accustomed to the tangled wires and endless limbs in their yards. Chilling days of depression and despair, more deadly than the ice, can invade the city. Pastors and church members now have another task. Believe me, they will measure up to it.

The picture I will long remember was in the midst of the twisted power lines and broken pecan limbs, there arose a flock of yellow jonquils all testifying that spring was coming. — GH

"AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE HE HAD THE NERVE TO TELL US IF WE HAVE FAITH, GOD WILL ENABLE US TO SUFFER — SUFFER, MIND YOU!"



Legal drugs a sure killer

What could possibly be gained by making it easier for Americans to kill themselves and each other? Nothing.

(Drug) legalization experiments worldwide have failed miserably in delivering the "benefit" most often touted by legalization proponents — a drop in violence associated with the drug trade.

Consider a few of the failures other countries have experienced:

— Heroin addiction has skyrocketed in Italy since passage of a national law permitting narcotics for personal use. Italy has the largest number of drug-related deaths in Western Europe, and estimates indicate that more than half of Italy's 300,000 heroin addicts are infected with AIDS.

— The price of cocaine dropped 40% during the early 1980's in the Bahamas. Cocaine-related admissions to the only psychiatric clinic went from 0 to 300.

— After softening drug laws, Sweden has stiffened its laws again in response to high abuse rates. (After tougher laws were reenacted, the number of teenagers who tried drugs was cut in half.)

— Many years ago, England legalized heroin sales at pharmacies. The number of heroin users doubled, and imports of illegal heroin increased 300%. Scotland Yard had to increase its narcotics squad by 100%.

But we don't have to look

abroad to find failed drug legalization experiments. From 1972 to 1978 when 11 U.S. states decriminalized marijuana, use of the drug escalated from 14% to 31% among children and from 48% to 68% among young adults. The use of other drugs also climbed dramatically.

As many as one-half of all homicides and serious assaults in the U.S. can be attributed to alcohol, a drug that is already legal, and half of all males arrested for any crime test positive for drug use.

Ask any law enforcement officer to name the root cause of violent crime, and you get the same grim answer — drugs.

And then there's the financial folly of legalization. From the economic standpoint, illegal drugs cost this nation almost \$70 million annually; the additional health care burden created is a staggering \$3.2 billion. For alcohol alone, it's \$10.5 billion.

Is that the direction in which we want to go?

The price of legalization is too high. We can't afford it in dollars and cents. We can't afford it in lives.

Excerpted from the February/March 1994 issue of Dateline, a publication of Developing Resources for Education in America, Inc. (DREAM), 817 East River Place, Jackson, MS 39202.

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Annuity Board offers states \$35 mil for annuity changes

DALLAS (BP) — The Annuity Board is offering state conventions \$35 million over the next five years if they will approve changes in the Church Annuity Plan, the basic retirement program the board administers for the convention's 38,000 churches.

Outlining the proposal to Annuity Board trustees during their Feb. 28-March 1 meeting in Dallas, W. Gordon Hobgood Jr., executive vice president and chief operating officer, said if the changes are approved by the various state conventions, the Annuity

Board will fund the states' entire protection section — the amount the states provide to encourage ministers' participation and which pays for supplemental disability protection and survivor benefits.

The bill for that is \$7 million annually. The Annuity Board will pay it for the next five years, if the states approve the changes.

The state conventions will be asked to consider the changes this fall. If all approve, the changes will go into effect Jan. 1, Hobgood said.

Under the proposed amend-

ments, states would determine requirements for coverage of non-ministerial employees. The current provision is that all employees of a church using the Church Annuity Plan automatically are covered as of Jan. 1, 1998.

The changes would provide for withdrawals of funds from the plan regardless of a participant's age if he or she discontinues service. Currently, if a person has \$20,000 or more in the retirement plan, it cannot be withdrawn until the person is 55.

Another change would permit

participants to borrow from their retirement accounts, although the amount has not been determined.

Participants in the old Plan A program would be permitted to receive a reduced retirement benefit at age 55, regardless of whether he or she had terminated service with all churches and associations, which is the current provision.

Other changes will bring the Church Annuity Plan into conformity with standard provisions of other plans, simplify and clarify it, and conform to administrative practice, a summary stated.

"We are proposing it because

we are able to do it and because of the ease in administration that it will provide," Hobgood said. "It is very difficult now to have people understand the difference between the church plan and other corporate plans.

"We are trying to make the Church Annuity Plan more understandable so the people can feel better about it and about us."

Elected as new trustee chairman was Richard C. Scott, dean of the Hancamer School of Business at Baylor University, and as vice chairman, S.A. Adkins, pastor of Forest Church, Forest.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Home Mission Board plans to combat gambling spread

ATLANTA (BP) — It's a conflict between morality and lifestyle increasingly faced by Southern Baptist churches across the country — including Mississippi — as they learn how to minister to their communities when gambling is legalized.

In response to increased calls from churches in regions where gambling has been legalized, Southern Baptist ministers gathered for a Feb. 28-March 2 "think tank" to formulate a strategy of training

and awareness for churches across the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We see the need to help our churches where gambling has come to impact their church field," said Bill Lee, director of the Home Mission Board special ministries department, sponsor of the meeting. "Our focus is to provide training and materials for churches that will equip them to do ministry with people affiliated with the gaming industry."

Across the United States the

ACTS visionaries observe system's 10th anniversary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — ACTS (American Christian Television System) is 10 years old this year.

The faith and values cable television service of the SBC's Radio and Television Commission was the vision of Jimmy Allen, former president of the RTVC and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He guided the network from inception through its formative years.

"Jimmy Allen's vision was the cornerstone for what ACTS has become over the past 10 years," said RTVC President Jack Johnson. "What began as a small cable service reaching a few people in a limited geographical area now reaches into more than 20 million homes nationwide. We must now take Jimmy Allen's vision into the next century, using all the new technology that becomes available to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

"There has been some concern," said Johnson, "that ACTS is sharing a channel with VISN members who are not evangelical Christians. I see sharing the channel as a positive, not a negative. It enables us to present the truth of

the gospel to people who otherwise might not have opportunity to hear it. And I happen to believe that when the truth of Christ is presented, the truth will be victorious in any confrontation with other teaching. The shared channel arrangement enables us to more effectively carry out the Great Commission, which is what we are about.

"ACTS exists as an autonomous network. VISN has no control over the content of our programming and we have no control over theirs. This was not a merger, blending, marriage, union, coalescence or linking of the two networks. This was simply an arrangement to share the same cable channel."

Johnson said ministry programs continue to be the most-watched on the channel, and monthly telephone calls and letters requesting spiritual help have tripled since the onset of the arrangement.

"The TV ministries of preachers Frank Pollard (First Church, Jackson), Charles Stanley, Ronnie Floyd, Ed Young, Jack Graham, Ron Phillips, and Robert Hamlin are reaching the lost... because of the shared channel agreement."

gaming industry is spreading like an out of control range fire with 48 states having some type of legalized gaming.

The gaming industry includes: parimutuels (horse and dog racing); bingo; casinos; riverboats; lotteries; card rooms; charitable games (raffles and drawings); Indian reservations; and legal bookmaking. In 1992 there were proposals and initiatives in 45 states to begin or expand legalized gaming activity.

Presently, the Home Mission Board has appointed missionaries in Atlantic City, Las Vegas, Reno, Lake Tahoe, and Laughlin, Nev., where the gaming industry has been predominant.

However, with the expansion of gaming along the Mississippi River and on Indian reservations, traditional Southern Baptist church settings now are being impacted as never before.

Churches in Mississippi and Louisiana, for example, are experiencing the onslaught of riverboats and casinos. Presently, 69 dockside casinos are in operation along the Mississippi River and the Gulf Coast.

John Landrum, a former pastor and now chaplain to the Mississippi Coast, is working with employees of the casinos in Gulfport.

The HMB Special Ministries Department has enlisted Frank Stark of Stafford, Mo., to serve as a gaming ministry consultant.

He has served as a Mission Service Corps volunteer and has led the Raceway Ministries, a ministry to the stock car racing circuit.

Stark will be assisting field personnel in gaming impacted-communities.

As a result of the think tank, several conferences are being planned and resources written to assist churches discover how they can minister in a gaming impacted community.



VBS season begins

The 1994 Vacation Bible School season kicked off Feb. 26 with the training of regional VBS leaders at the Baptist Building in Jackson. The 39 leaders in turn led training for 349 associational leaders March 5 in five locations around the state. Between now and June, those workers will train local church leaders in preparation for the summer Bible study program. Leaders for the Feb. 26 session (pictured left to right) were Jeff Ingram, Wiggins; Linda Reeves, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Peggy Britt, Jackson; Larry Salter, MBCB, coordinator; Patti Edwards, Meridian; Keith Wilkinson, MBCB; and Randy Tompkins, MBCB. The training events were sponsored by the MBCB's Sunday School Department. (Photo by Teresa Dickens)

SBC CP gifts are over budget, down for month

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for February were down from the previous year but the year-to-date totals are still above the budget requirement, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

February 1994 CP totals were \$10,425,108 compared to February 1993 of \$10,996,497, a decrease of \$571,388 or 5.20%.

However, the fiscal year-to-date totals (for five months) were .49% above the similar period a year ago.

YTD figures for 1993-94 stand at \$59,047,066 compared to 1992-

93 of \$58,760,504.

Chapman said he also was encouraged that the 1993-94 YTD figures are 2.52% above the program allocation budget requirement for five months: \$57,597,806. The \$1,449,259 overage is for the October 1993 through February 1994 budget period. The monthly budget requirement is \$11,519,561.

Designated gifts for the month fell slightly, \$35,103,734 compared to a year ago of \$35,369,335, .75% decrease. YTD totals for designated gifts: \$63,217,513 compared to the previous YTD of \$64,929,599, a 2.64% decrease.

State's Feb. gifts to CP show rise over last year

Mississippi Baptists gave \$1,878,325 through the Cooperative Program in February, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which disburses the funds.

This amount is \$74,791 less than that given in February of 1993, but the two-month total for

1994 of \$3,878,180 is \$3,380 (or .09%) more than that given in January and February of last year.

The pro rata budget for two months of 1994 is \$3,742,000. This means that giving is \$136,180 (or 3.64%) more than that needed to reach the total budget of \$22,452,000.

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting

March 18-19, 1994

Broadmoor Church, Jackson

THEME: SERVE IN CHRIST'S NAME

Friday

10-10:50 a.m. Conferences (each will be repeated two additional times)
MINISTERING AND WITNESSING
PRAYER
WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH WMU? June Whitlow and Marjean Patterson
11-11:50 a.m. Conferences repeat
12-1:15 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
1:15-2:05 p.m. Conferences repeat
2:15 p.m. Pre-session music
Group praise
Welcome
Prayer calendar and prayer
Serve in Christ's Name
In New Orleans
In Bolivia
Through Witnessing and Ministering
Through Change in WMU
Missionary parents recognition
Serve in Christ's Name
Through Prayer
Benediction

Laura Fry Allen
Jennifer Dean
Jim Futral
Martha Ellen Marler
Loretta Rivers
Cynthia Martin
Laura Allen
June Whitlow
Betty Dobbs
Jennifer Dean
Betty Malone

6:30 p.m. Processional of flags of the nations
"Songs for the Nations"
Group praise
Prayer
HANDS OF PRAISE CHOIR
Serve in Christ's Name
In China
Group praise
Offertory Prayer
Offering
Serve in Christ's Name
Through Ministry in WMU
Testimonies
Serve in Christ's Name
Through Prayer
Through Ministry/Witness
Solo
Serve in Christ's Name
In Ghana
Prayer

Sharon Neff
Woodland Hills Church, Jackson
Kaye Wilson
Betty Breland
June Whitlow
Jennifer Dean
Laura Allen
Betty Jo Lewis
Earl Hewitt
Linda Donnell
Group praise
Jennifer Dean
Syble Myers
State WMU Staff
Laura Allen
Joan Tyler
Trudy Johnson
Betty Jo Lewis
Fae Maroon

Saturday

9:30 a.m. Serve in Christ's Name
Through Prayer
Prayer Calendar and Prayer
Serve in Christ's Name
Group praise
Serve in Christ's Name
In My Own Surroundings
Business
Offertory Prayer
Offering
Group Praise
Serve in Christ's Name
"My Soul Desire"
Benediction

Music: Mary Simmons, June McKee, Betty Jo Lewis

Southern Baptists cautious as Palestinians' anger escalates

JERUSALEM (BP) — Southern Baptist workers in the West Bank and Gaza stayed out of sight as an eerie stillness settled into the normally bustling Israeli-occupied territories Palestinian Arabs claim as their own.

A round-the-clock curfew — imposed hours after a Jewish settler's massacre of Muslims worshiping in a Hebron mosque Feb. 25 — stilled angry Palestinians who took to the streets in protest.

In Gaza, Southern Baptist rep-

resentative Paul Lawrence of Leeds, Ala., stayed inside with his wife, Harriet, and two children.

They're joined by Glenn Glover of Birmingham, Ala., a Southern Baptist International Service Corps worker unable to speak Arabic who otherwise would be shut in alone.

As soon as they knew about the massacre, the Lawrences stocked up on groceries in anticipation of a curfew, he said.

Fellowship's "impact" on SBC is \$8.7 million, spokesman says

NASHVILLE (ABP) — An Executive Committee study on "the impact" of funds coming to Southern Baptist Convention agencies through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is unneeded, a Fellowship spokesperson says.

"I think the 'impact' is rather evident," said David Wilkinson, communications coordinator for the Atlanta-based alternative missions organization for Baptists dissatisfied with the SBC's fundamental-conservative leadership. "Over the past three years, the Fellowship has forwarded more than \$8,733,000 to the work of the agencies and institutions of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The study was ordered at the Executive Committee's Feb. 21-22 meeting in Nashville. It will include a recommendation regarding "the acceptance or rejection" of Fellowship funds by SBC entities and is to be reported to the Executive Committee's business and finance subcommittee at a June 13 meeting in Orlando, Fla., prior to the June 14-16 SBC annual meeting.

The motion was adopted without discussion during the Executive Committee's closing plenary

session. It reportedly surfaced in a subcommittee meeting, where it also passed with little discussion.

Early in the meeting, officials making routine budget requests to the Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee were quizzed about whether or not

Press were vague about the motion's specific intent.

Scott Humphrey, an Alexandria, Va., layman who chairs the business and finance subcommittee, said the motion was not an agenda item, that it was made by a member of the subcommittee, seconded, and passed unanimously. "I think the purpose was that people were asking questions about what was happening with the CBF money and nobody had the answer so somebody needed to study it," he said.

One SBC executive is on record to that effect. Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis told Baptist state paper editors last month that refusing Fellowship money

would be an "insult" to individual Baptists who choose to support SBC work in a non-traditional manner.

Lewis told editors he planned to meet with administrators of the SBC Foreign Mission Board and Executive Committee the following week in Nashville to discuss how to handle funds from the Fellowship. Asked there about the meeting, Lewis said "it was a good dialogue time" but that the leaders "didn't come to any specific conclusions."

"Over the past three years, the Fellowship has forwarded more than \$8,733,000 to the work of the agencies and institutions of the Southern Baptist Convention."

—David Wilkinson
CBF Comm. Dir.

their respective agencies were recipients of any Fellowship funds. Several reporters tracking the development of the SBC's 1994-95 operating budget heard no further mention of the Fellowship.

Meanwhile, the issue emerged unnoticed by the press in the business and finance subcommittee during a review of denominational giving patterns.

Executive Committee members approached by Associated Baptist

BSSB eliminates trade discount for Lifeway books, Convention Press

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Baptist Sunday School Board's church growth group has announced Convention Press and Lifeway products will no longer be sold at discount to retail outlets other than Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores.

The effective date for Convention Press will be April 1; for Lifeway, May 1. The action marks a return to the sales policy Convention Press followed prior to 1988.

The change will not affect church literature, which will continue to be sold direct to churches and individuals. Broadman & Holman products, produced by the board's trade and retail markets group, will continue to be produced primarily for sale through trade stores.

The decision will affect approximately 9.5% or \$1.9 million of sales of the two product lines. In 1993, about 52% or \$10.2 million of the \$19.6 million annual sales of the two lines was generated through the board's 1-800 customer service center and about 38% or \$7.6 million through the 64-store Baptist Book Store chain.

"The primary reason for this very difficult decision is that Lifeway and Convention Press materials are priced to sell direct to customers, not at the percentages discount trade outlets customarily receive," said Gene Mims, vice president of the church growth group. "By selling to retail stores at discounts, we couldn't cover the

cost of the material. Our other option would be to raise prices, but we don't believe this is in our best interest or that of the churches and individuals we serve."

For example, Mims said the popular Lifeway discipleship course book, "Experiencing God," sells for \$9.95. If priced to sell at

discount through independent trade outlets, the price would need to be approximately \$15.

"Our continuing commitment is to provide the highest value in materials at the lowest possible cost," Mims said. "We regret any inconvenience caused by our need to make this change."



WMU leader is MC guest

Dellanna W. O'Brien (second from left) of Birmingham, Ala., executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, was recently guest lecturer in the Evangelism Lecture Series sponsored by the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Mississippi College. Pictured with O'Brien, from left, are Don Gann, BSU director; O'Brien; Roger Patterson, a senior religion major from Houston, Texas; and Loyd Allen, head of the Department of Religion and Philosophy. (MC photo by Jesse Worley)

Wrap-up...

CLC seminar speakers warn of family, cultural breakdown

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — The breakdown of American family life can be reversed by a concerted emphasis on the role of the husband and father in the traditional two-parent family, where husbands and wives share mutual affection and respect and where children are disciplined in love, speakers to the Christian Life Commission's "Family in Crisis" 1994 annual seminar said.

At the same time, speaker after speaker criticized the elements in American society today they say are destroying the family, such as sex outside marriage, drug abuse, pornography, homosexuality, and educational institutions, government entities, and media outlets that enable or glorify such immoral behavior.

Over and over speakers said the traditional family of a man and woman with children is God's ideal presented in the Bible.

For the first time since the CLC began holding annual seminars, the 1994 meeting was held in a local church, First Church, Del City, Okla. The seminar drew the second largest registration of any CLC seminar ever, 746, and was the largest CLC seminar in more than a decade.

"The family is the most basic unit of society," said Southern Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. "God intended it that way."

Christian Life Commission

Pastor leaving church that was ousted by SBC

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (ABP) — The pastor of a church kicked out of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1992 for licensing a homosexual to the ministry has said she will resign the pastorate, citing repercussions from the episode.

Linda Jordan, senior pastor of Olin T. Binkley Church, Chapel Hill, N.C., mailed a letter in late February to the congregation announcing she would step down Aug. 31.

Nearly all of Jordan's four-year pastorate has been tumultuous, the *Raleigh News & Observer* reported March 2. When the church voted to call her in May 1990 as its first woman pastor, several members left.

A decision in April 1992 to license John Blevins, an openly gay Duke Divinity School student, created another split, with seven of Binkley's 20 deacons resigning in protest and a number of longtime members deserting their pews.

That decision gained national attention when the Southern Baptist Convention voted in 1992 not to recognize messengers from Binkley and another church in North Carolina — Pullen Memorial Church, Raleigh — which held

Executive Director Richard Land said, "The family has almost ceased to function in a nurturing, moralizing way in major segments of society."

"We must not only reawaken intact families, revive intact families," he said, but Christians must reconstruct within communities of believers a biblical understanding of the family as God meant it to function.

"There is a way back from this moral abyss, but it is only found in God's Word and God's institution of families," Land said.

Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. said the hope of America lies in returning to biblical principles of the family.

"The crowning achievement of God was the creation of the family," he said. "When sin entered the world, things changed, but God did not abandon his plan for the family. It was his plan for a unified world."

Draper said authority, affection, and admonition are the principles God laid down for a unified family.

Draper said the tragedy today is that Christian morality and ethics is often no different from that of the world. "Marriage is an exclusive union. It excludes a sexual relationship with anyone other than one's spouse. It is never right to compromise God's standards."

Southeastern Seminary Presi-

a marriage-type ceremony for a gay couple.

Although neither church requested to have messengers at the SBC, it marked the first time a church had ever been excluded from the nearly 150-year-old convention for doctrinal deviation. Because of the episode, the SBC amended its constitution to expressly exclude from membership any church which acts to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior.

The two churches were also voted out of the Baptist Convention of North Carolina.

"It goes without saying that the last four years have been strenuous ones for the Binkley congregation and for me," Jordan said. "We have dealt with some very difficult and controversial issues."

"Nevertheless," she said, "change demands a high price, especially of those in leadership."

Jordan told the congregation she was not being fired, but that she felt the "need to make a change."

"I have felt supported by the majority of the membership. I was not asked to resign, nor has there been undue pressure to force my resignation," she said.

dent Paige Patterson said families must rear their children in the "fear of the Lord."

"Parents must store the Word of the Lord in their hearts and express profound love for God," he said.

Several speakers said pornography and homosexuality are two of many ways Satan is attacking families today.

Every Christian needs to be involved in the fight against pornography, said Jerry Kirk, founder and president of the National Coalition Against Pornography (N-CAP).

"Pornography is anti-child, anti-woman, anti-man, anti-marriage, anti-family, anti-church, and anti-God, and it is filling America," he said. Kirk, a former Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., pastor, called for a united Christian effort to eliminate child pornography and all illegal pornography in America.

Americans can win the war against pornography, but they will have to do it one battle at a time, said Oklahoma City District Attorney Bob Macy, also a Presbyterian.

"My goal has been and will always be to make Oklahoma City the safest and most decent city in this nation, a place where families can raise their children in safety and a moral climate," Macy said. "In order to achieve that goal, something had to be done about pornography."

Macy is credited with spearheading a citywide effort to drive out pornography-related businesses and prostitutes. His efforts are said to have lowered the rate of sexually related crime in the city and saved the taxpayers millions of dollars.

In his keynote address to the seminar, former U.S. drug czar William Bennett said happiness "has moved ahead of commitment in modern American thinking." During the 1960s and 1970s some Americans embraced the belief they "were not only entitled to the pursuit of happiness, we were entitled, as a right, to happiness itself," he said.

Bennett, a Roman Catholic, said he believes the United States is on the "edge of a moral, religious revolution" which will re-establish and reinvigorate the family in this country.

Southern Baptist Convention registration cards for the convention which meets in Orlando, Fla., June 14-16, are available from the office of Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

For more information, call (601) 968-3800, ext. 3801.

Thursday, March 10, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Combat zone ministry

Southern Baptist missionary Peggy Templin (left, rear) and Mexican volunteers serve a meal of rice, beans, and tortillas they have prepared for refugees from the armed uprising in Mexico's Chiapas state. The indigenous people fled their homes after Indian guerrillas started fighting government troops in early January. Baptists have opened relief centers in three towns near the combat zone to feed hundreds of families uprooted by the insurrection. Templin and her husband, Bill, are based in Mexico's Veracruz state but will stay in the Chiapas area until late June. The Templins plan to start as many home Bible study groups as possible while they are in the war-torn area. (Photo by David Daniell)

Vestal, Scoper to address CBF meeting on March 26

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Mississippi will hold its spring meeting on March 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at First Church, Meridian. Featured speakers will be Daniel Vestal of Houston, Texas, and Dell Scoper of Laurel.

Vestal, pastor of Houston's Tallwood Church, served as the first moderator of the national CBF. Prior to the formation of CBF, Vestal ran for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Scoper, a member of First Church, Laurel, is a former member of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union executive board and past president of the national Mississippi College alumni association.

Registration for the CBF meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. A dutch-treat lunch will be provided at the church. For more information, call First, Meridian, at (601) 484-4600, or Gene Triggs at (601) 969-7502.

Cross Over Orlando



June 11, 1994

Delta "can lady" walks, gathers for student summer missions

By Tim Nicholas

Frances Wong of Cleveland walks seven miles a day. She likes the exercise and along the way she's done a ton of work for the Lord.

The ton is the approximate weight (2,060 lbs., to be exact) of the aluminum cans unheeding people have littered the streets with, which she has picked up since last May.

Because of her walks, the Mississippi Delta woman has earned the title of "Can Lady for the Lord," a moniker given by a neighbor child.

Not only does she help with the litter problem, Mrs. Wong for the last several years has sold the cans and donated the money to student summer missions at Delta State University's Baptist Student Union.

Bill Kirkpatrick, BSU director at Delta State, reported her can money has brought in \$566 toward the BSU's goal of \$7,300.

"Every can I pick up, I say, Lord, this is yours," said Mrs. Wong, who added that sometimes people give her money thinking perhaps she is in need. "I dress raggedy in winter," she said.

First person...

Jose's health due to gifts of many

In an article by Tim Nicholas, published in The Baptist Record Feb. 24, we told of Jose Mendoza-Oseguera, the young Honduran boy who has been the guest of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board since last summer. The following item is written by Vicki McCall of Clinton, Jose's Stateside guardian, in response to that article.

As the legal guardian for Jose Mendoza-Oseguera, it has been my privilege to work with some wonderful people. I wish to thank the churches that have prayed for Jose and all of the ministers and church members who so faithfully visited him. I have greatly appreciated all of the bilingual interpreters who have given so much of their time to help Jose communicate.

I particularly wish to express my gratitude to God's wonderful servants who are affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. I have seen no better care provided anywhere than I saw provided for Jose at MBMC. The untold hours of care provided by a team of medical and dental specialists, coordinated by Greg Fiser, was delivered with kindness and compassion.

Beginning with administration, I say thank you to each hospital department which had a part in caring for Jose's needs. The professional yet tender loving care of the pediatric nursing staff and

offering the explanation, adding, "It all goes to the Lord."

Mrs. Wong became involved with the BSU five years ago when Jimmy Breland, retired BSU director, invited her to work in the kitchen of the BSU, which serves free lunches on Wednesdays. Breland and Kirkpatrick preach at the Chinese Baptist Church in Cleveland on alternate Sundays. She has continued her volunteer work with Kirkpatrick since he replaced Breland three years ago.

She's at the BSU center about five hours on Wednesdays — setting the table, running the kitchen, and mopping the floors after the free lunch which serves 80 to 110 students.

"It is a blessing to see all these young people come together in fellowship and love in Jesus," she said.

Said Kirkpatrick, "We think the world of her. She is like a right arm."

Mrs. Wong feels a special affinity for missions because she is a product of missions herself.

Born in Louise, Miss., the daughter of Chinese immigrants,

Mrs. Wong was converted to Christianity in China. Her parents had sent her to a Baptist girls' school in Canton to learn the culture, language, and history of China. "And that's where I found the Lord," she said, at a revival service led by a missionary from the United States.

"That's why every December when the Lottie Moon offering (for foreign missions) comes around, I give what I can because it reached a lost soul like me in China."

Though she lost her husband to a heart attack last year — he had been Chinese Church's treasurer more than 37 years — she stays active in Christian service. She recently returned from a two-week trip to Israel with a group from First Church, Cleveland. The team worked at the Baptist Village in Petah Tiqva where they enlarged the camp's dining room and kitchen, built shelves, and cooked.

"I believe the Lord has been so good in our lives," said Mrs. Wong, "that I owe him so much more service till the day he comes for me."



Frances Wong stands behind the counter in the kitchen of the Delta State University Baptist Student center. She is a regular volunteer who serves lunches to students on Wednesdays. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

HMB director says black communities ripe for the harvest

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)

— Southern Baptists can experience explosive growth in America's cities if they confront racism and accept a large constituency of African Americans in the denomination, said the Home Mission Board's director of black church extension.

"The fields in the African-American communities are white unto harvest — or should I say black," said Willie McPherson.

"We must reap this harvest at all costs while we have time lest the opportunity slip away and souls be lost to eternal separation from God," he said, speaking to Southern Baptist church starting leaders during the board's church extension leadership conference.

Telling the group "a soul is a terrible thing to waste," McPherson said Southern Baptists must be willing to minister in the cities to reach African Americans.

McPherson quoted census and other government figures showing 85% of African Americans live in urban areas, and more than half can be found in 17 metropolitan cities.

"These 17 metropolitan areas hold the potential for a growth explosion in the Southern Baptist Convention between now and the turn of the century," he said.

The number of new African-American Southern Baptist churches grew from 79 in 1991 to 117 in 1992 and 274 last year.

To reach African Americans, Southern Baptists must also appoint African Americans to more positions of leadership in the denomination, McPherson said.

"Although there are several positions to be filled, at present there are only three state directors

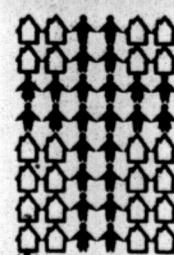
of black church extension who are African American," he said, listing California, New York, and Alabama.

Concerning racism, McPherson reminded the audience that Jesus met with the woman at the well while going through Samaria, a city considered unclean by the Jews.

"What Jesus was saying to this woman, and is saying to us today, was that the gospel is for everybody; not to be preached any differently for blacks or Anglos or Hispanics or American Indians or anyone else," he said.

"Let's go through Samaria, and stop saying, 'Not so, Lord' and reap the harvest that he has placed before us and watch the convention explode."

START CHURCHES IN UNDERCHURCHED COMMUNITIES



Celebrate Church Starting!

Start-a-Church
Commitment Sunday
March 27, 1994



HOME MISSION BOARD, SBC
For more information, call 1 800 634 2462

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 10, 1994

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

By Joe Anderson
Pastor, FBC, Boyle

A new church is born and there is an air of excitement about what God is doing in Zimbabwe. The name of the new church is Mutiwawora Baptist Church. It was named after a mountain that is a short distance from the church. There were over 400 professions of faith with 164 of them being made in the church. If people will only hear the call, there is the strong possibility that three more churches could come into being in the area that we were in. How shall they hear if no one goes to tell?

We had many exciting experiences while we were there. There were two who were demon possessed. One we could not help because, even though they professed Christ as their savior, they were unwilling, or too frightened, to remove some of the satanic items the local witch doctor left in their home. The other possession we were able to do something about. Tim Cearly, our missionary there, and myself prayed and Jesus cast out the demon. It was marvelous to see our Lord work with such power.

One of the most interesting experiences we had was with a woman who had been a prostitute on the highway between Mozambique and Harare, Zimbabwe. She sold herself to the truck drivers that came on this highway. Now she has given herself to Jesus as Lord and He is using her in a mighty way. I don't know how much longer she will live on this earth for this highway is the route that AIDS is being carried into the country. I do know that she will live eternally with Jesus. That is special. We need to pray for her for now she is troubled as to how she will support her three children. The new church is already looking for a way for her to earn an income to support herself and her family. There was a wonderful outpouring of love for her.

On Monday the chief of the tribe came to Christ. He is the chief of over 4000 people. His name is Kawere Chimhanda. His salvation will almost guarantee the future success of the church. He could not be baptized on the Sunday we left for he had to hear a custody case. He told us that he would be baptized the next baptism. He is a man of his word. Barry



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTIST WORLD
PARTNERSHIPS

MISSION, cont. on back page

**Mississippi Conference on
PREACHING & WORSHIP**
GALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Starkville
APRIL 25-26, 1994

PURPOSE: To provide an in-depth workshop on Bible preaching, focusing on preparation and delivery - practical helps for weekly sermon preparation.

FINANCES: There is no charge for this conference.

... PERSONNEL ...



HAROLD BRYSON **RICHARD A. POWELL** **FRANKLIN DENHAM** **LAVONN D. BROWN** **GREG POTTS**

- **Harold Bryson**, consultant in the pastoral section of the Church Leadership Department, Baptist Sunday School Board
- **Richard A. Powell** pastor, Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson
- **Franklin Denham**, minister of music, Highland Baptist Church, Meridian
- **Lavonn D. Brown**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Norman, Oklahoma
- **Greg Potts**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Vancleave

TIMES OF INSIGHT AND INSPIRATION

*"The Supernatural Impact of Preaching"
"Preaching in the 90's"
"Preacher, What Do They Believe?"
"Finding The Sermon"
"The New Testament Church: A Safe Place for a Dangerous Message"*

*"How to Focus Your Preaching"
"The Impact of Sermons on People's Lives"
"The Impact of the Preacher on the Sermon"
"Communicating the Message"*

WORKSHOP TITLE
(REPEATED THREE TIMES)

*"Preaching on the Life and Ministry of Christ"
"Ways to Enrich Worship"
"How to Hit a Home Run When You Haven't Taken Batting Practice"*

To register contact:
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION-PASTORAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT • (601) 968-3800.

pray this day....

March 16-31, 1994

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| <i>She was 3 1/2, spending a week with us, her grandparents. A stomach virus hit her in the night, and I was rocking her in the darkened, still-quiet den. The chair squeaked regularly. Finally, she squirmed and said, "Mammy, I wish it wouldn't keep saying that." By now, you probably wish we wouldn't keep saying these dismal, shocking facts about our country. But they are true; this is the world that children and grandchildren of all ages must live with - unless Christians change it through work like the Home Mission Board does. Again, statistics come from JFM DIMENSION. — Wilda Fancher</i> | | | | | | |
| for the seven to ten million Americans who will carry AIDS by the year 2000 (only six years from now?) | for the people affected by the deaths of the 30 million Americans who will already be dead or dying from AIDS by the year 2000 (surely not only six years from now) | for those affected by growing numbers of teenage suicide | for the nearly 2.7 million children reported to be abused or neglected in 1991, and for their counterparts in the years since | for the almost 10 million latchkey children in our country | for the estimated 179 million persons in our country who are unsaved | for those affected by the more than 3,000 new cases of AIDS diagnosed in our country each month |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| on a brighter note, for Christians who care and are giving time and money to help one-to-one | for churches as they plan local ways of helping with many of these problems | for service organizations and industries which work with churches and home missionaries to meet needs | for the average television viewer in America who will see an estimated 10,000 murders by the time he's 21 | for the one of four girls who will be sexually abused by someone within her family by age 18 | for those affected by the reported 53,000 people who die each year as a result of second-hand smoke | for the 7.6 percent of America's population who receive food stamps |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| | | | 30 | 31 | Prayer Ministry Office P. O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530 Phone: 968-3800, Ext. 3904 Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY | |

MISSISSIPPI CHURCH FACILITIES

WORKSHOP

April 12, 1994
RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH
Madison, Mississippi
7469 Old Canton Road

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- How to organize your people for a building program
- Expert presentations on Master Planning and role of space in church growth
- Planning for unique needs of worship and education
- Personalized consultation for the unique programs of your church
- Fund raising and financing
- Workshops for specialized situations

- * Choose your workshop schedule
- * VENDORS OF CHURCH FURNISHINGS AND SERVICES

SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. - REGISTRATION
 8:45 a.m. - WELCOME
 9:00 a.m. - noon - WORKSHOPS
 noon - 1:00 p.m. - LUNCH AT THE CHURCH
 1:00 - 3:15 p.m. - WORKSHOPS
 3:15 p.m. - APPOINTMENTS scheduled at conclusion of workshop (For appointment with program personnel, call Matt Buckles.)

FEE - \$10.00 per person
(fee includes lunch)

REGISTRATION - To register please contact Matt Buckles or Vonda Clower at (601) 968-3800

Sponsored by

Church Building Services
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



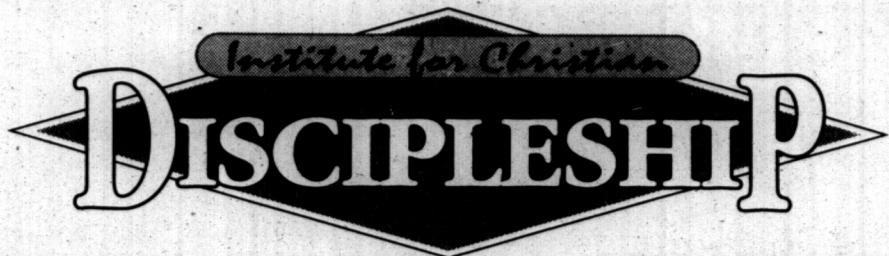
Mississippi Baptist Secretaries' Conference CAMP GARAYWA April 18-19, 1994

One of the finest opportunities for pastors and staff to receive more help is to encourage their secretaries to attend the Secretaries' Conferences and be a member of the MBSA. I have had the privilege of supporting and being a part of the ministry and training for secretaries from the very beginning. I know what continuing training has done to assist secretaries in being more proficient in their profession. The conferences also provide secretaries opportunities for spiritual enrichment and personal growth, so they will have a more meaningful life."

— J. C. RENFROE
Director of missions, Rankin Association

To register
 contact Anne
 Martin at
 (601) 968-3800,
 ext 3905





Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.
March 28-31, 1994

SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCES

- Growing Older, Growing Wiser
- Grandparenting By Grace
- Watchman Prayer Ministry
- Master Your Money
- Experiencing God/Fresh Encounter
- The Mind of Christ

EVENING WORKSHOPS

(Mon. evening topics repeated Tues. afternoon and Tues. evening topics repeated Wed. afternoon)

- Overview of LIFE and LIFE Support (Mon. evening - **no cost**)
- Single Parenting (Mon. Evening)
- Ingathering: Reclaiming Inactive Church Members (Mon. Evening)
- Master Your Money (Mon. Evening)
- New Member Training (Mon. Evening)
- Leading Preschoolers in Discipleship (Tues. Evening)
- Leading Children in Discipleship (Tues. Evening)
- Leading Youth in Discipleship (Tues. Evening)
- Leading Adults in Discipleship (Tues. Evening)

- Helping Families Meet Needs (Tues. Evening)
- First Place (Tues. Evening)
- TeamKID (Tues. Evening)
- Beginning a Single Adult Ministry (Tues. Evening)

DAY TIME WORKSHOPS

- MasterLife (Mon. - Thurs.)
- MasterBuilder (Mon. - Tues.)
- Experiencing God (Mon. - Wed.)
- Entrepreneurial Church Leadership (Tues. afternoon)
- LIFE Support (Tues. - Thurs.)
- Christian Sex Education (Tues. - Wed. Morning)
- The Bible Speaks to End Times (Wed.)
- Fresh Encounter (Mon. - Wed.)
- DiscipleYouth (Wed. and Thurs.)
- The Mind of Christ (Thurs.)

To register or learn more about this conference contact Robins Nichols at (601) 968-3800, ext. 3888.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 25, 1994

**MULTIHOUSING
MINISTRY
CONFERENCE**

April 30, 1994

9:00 a.m. - noon

Hinds-Madison

Baptist Association Building

6530 Dogwood View Parkway

Jackson, Mississippi 39213

**"OUR MULTIHOUSING
MISSION FIELD"**

Led by:

Vivian Hite

Multihousing Consultant

Missouri Baptist Convention

This is an introductory how-to conference open to any who are interested in learning about this ministry.

To register or receive more information about the conference, write or call Hinds-Madison Baptist Association (601) 362-8676.

For additional information about meeting the diverse needs of multihousing residents, Neron Smith, State Consultant, Missions Extension and Associational Administration, MBCB, 968-3800, Ext. 3961.

CONFERENCE SET FOR CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTORS AND CHURCH OUTREACH DIRECTORS

The 1994 Church Sunday School Directors and Church Outreach Directors Seminar has been set for April 15-16, 1994. This is listed in the Mississippi Baptist Diary as the Key Leader Seminar. The program will begin with registration at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and conclude at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday.

The 1993 Key Leader Seminar had a record attendance in the history of this event. Over 100 individuals attended the event.

The 1994 Seminar will incorporate several suggestions from those who came in 1993. There will be a conference for Church Outreach Directors, Church Sunday School Directors with two or more years experience and Church Sunday School Directors with under two years experience. There will also be more time given for dialogue and discussion.

There will be a \$7.00 registration fee to cover the cost of conference materials. There will also be a Baptist Book Store display. Items for sale at the Book Store display will include Outreach materials, Sunday School Director's Handbook, Sunday School Planning materials, Worker Enlistment materials, etc.

Those interested in this Seminar should fill out the registration form and return it to

the Sunday School Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. For a listing of area hotels/motels and/or further information on the seminar you may call (601) 968-3800, extension 3891.

You will be responsible for supper Friday evening and lunch Saturday. There will be a Continental Breakfast served Saturday. If you are planning to stay in Jackson, you will need to make those arrangements yourself.

Key Leader Seminar for Church Sunday School Directors and Church Outreach Directors

April 15-16, 1994

Baptist Building

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Daytime phone number: (_____) _____

Church name: _____

I am the: Church Sunday School Director

Church Outreach Director

CHURCH WEEKDAY EDUCATION MINISTRIES

By Barbara Brown
Preschool Minister
First Baptist Church, Madison

Is yours a church overflowing with young families and their children or one with a small number of boys and girls? Either way—you may be a prime candidate for new or additional Weekday Education Ministries.

Designed to attract, reach, and meet the needs of families in your community, weekday ministries include a variety of programs which provide care, nurture, guidance, and teaching for children. These programs are not designed to replace any church programs, but rather to provide parents the opportunity for work and/or leisure time.

Weekday Ministries include:

Mother's Day Out—Moms are provided one or two half or whole days per week for a nominal fee. Moms are then free to clean, shop, or participate in Bible study during that time while preschoolers enjoy peer fellowship.

Preschool Kindergarten—A half-day program designed to meet developmental needs of preschoolers; usually includes ages 3-5 years.

Daycare—Employed parents are provided full day, five-day-a-week childcare. State licensing procedures must be followed. A wide range of ages is usually included.

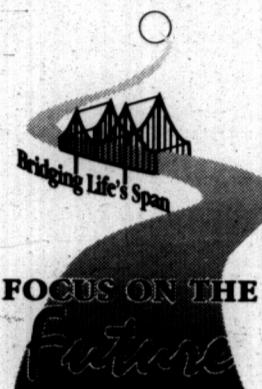
Before and After School Care—Provided for children in elementary school. This program is usually an extension of daycare. Often, though, before and after school care is an independent program providing transportation to and from school, snacks as needed, supervision, and even tutoring.

Summer Day Camp—This program extends the Before-and-After School Day Care program for elementary children whose parents are employed. One or more themes may be developed as children enjoy field trips, Bible teaching, games, outside play, art, music, etc. A summer musical may even be prepared and presented.

Parent's Night Out—This ministry is provided, usually on a cost recovery basis, for parents to have the opportunity to spend time alone while at the same time know their children are having fun and learning Bible truths.

Kid's Club—Planned for one afternoon per week or Saturday mornings. This program gives boys and girls an opportunity for Christian growth and fellowship. (TeamKIDS, produced by the Discipleship Training Department, is the perfect material for this ministry.)

Weekday ministry programs provide exciting ways to reach many unchurched people for the Lord. ▲



F·I·F·T·H A·N·N·U·A·L T E E T I M E



Mississippi College MINISTERS' GOLF TOURNAMENT August 8 & 9, 1994

The fifth annual Mississippi College Ministers' Golf Tournament has been scheduled for August 8 and 9, 1994. All ordained ministers, including DOMs, Pastors, Youth, Music, Education, and BSU Directors are invited. Registration will be at 1:00 p.m. on August 8 at Live Oaks Golf Club. Tee time is 1:30. The entry fee is \$50.00. This includes green fees and cart for two days, lunch on August 9 and refreshments. Format will be two-man scramble. Pick your own partner. Pre-registration is required. Please call 925-3263 if you have questions.

ENTRY FORM Registration deadline is July 29, 1994

Name _____ Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone _____ Church _____

Handicap _____ Partner _____ Daytime Phone _____

Church _____ Handicap _____ Entry Fee Enclosed Yes No

MISSION, cont. from front page

Robinson told us that it was not unusual for people to be forced to wait several days to see the chief. On our arrival, he invited us in and he and his wife were wonderfully saved. He then brought the elders of the tribe to see us and we were able to plant the seed of the Gospel with them.

Henry Blackaby said that "God is at work all around us. We need to see what He is doing and get involved." God is truly at work in Zimbabwe and for Christians who want to experience the power of the Living God, they need to join Him there. They won't necessarily find comfort but they will find those who are starving for the Word and who are open to the Gospel and they will experience the presence of the Living Lord as never before.

I want to thank the team of Carl and Martha Holland for going with me and also the Merrits who were most gracious and helpful. Also to missionaries Barry Robinson and Tim Cearley and their families. They were wonderful and helpful. By the way, Tim will be moving soon for his work permit is not being renewed. Our missionary staff there will be very short soon for the government is not renewing the work permits. I think that they will only allow them to stay for ten years now. This makes the need for volunteers even more urgent for soon the doors may be shut completely.

Thanks also to Mississippi Baptists for allowing me to be a part of the partnership team in foreign missions. Ya'll are doing a great job and our love and prayers are with you. ▲

VOLUNTEER & SMALL CHURCH YOUTH MINISTERS CONFERENCE

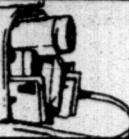
This conference is for volunteer and part-time persons who work with youth ministry in the smaller membership church.

Participants will discover basic principles that can lead to a balanced, comprehensive, and effective youth ministry in the smaller membership church.

There is no cost for attending this conference.

For more information please call (601) 968-3800, ext. 3905.

March 18, 1994
First Baptist Church, Sardis:
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
March 19, 1994
Faith Baptist Church, Starkville:
9:30 a.m. - Noon



Letters to the editor



Letters to the Editor policy

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

All correspondence is subject to editing. Letters must be limited to 250 words.

No more than one letter will be printed during a 3-month period from any individual. Each correspondent must include an address and the name of his or her church.

When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with that subject will be terminated.

In special instances, when to identify the writer of a letter might cause undue embarrassment, the name will be withheld.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks.

Pastors are anointed

Editor:

Recently, there was an article in *The Baptist Record* critical of a sermon by W.A. Criswell. Criswell's fruits over the years clearly show he is God's anointed. God's principles on how we are to treat his anointed are outlined in 1 Samuel 26:7-11, 2 Samuel 1:5-16, and Psalm 105:15. All Southern Baptists would do well to follow David's examples and treat God's anointed, such as pastors, with great respect.

Secondly, the numbering structure used in Hebrew, Greek, and King James versions of the Holy Bible proves conclusively that every book, every chapter, and every verse is in the right place. The Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God.

The Bible was written by 42 different writers over a period of about 1,400 years, yet the numbering structure remains the same from Genesis to Revelation. For example, Moses, Aaron, Saul, and David (and other names) mentioned hundreds of times over a period of hundreds of years by many different writers. Yet, the sum total of the times mentioned in each name is divisible by the perfect or complete number 7. Only God can do that!

In 1921, Russian-born numerologist Ivan Panin, was invited to Harvard University to speak before a skeptical audience on why the Holy Bible was the Word of God.

Panin spoke three hours each day, Monday through Friday, and when he finished he was given a standing ovation by an audience that had planned to ridicule him. The amazing thing

was that he only used one chapter in the Bible to speak on, and that was Matthew, Chapter 1.

Only God and not man could have arranged the numbering structure of the Bible to prove his Word.

Kimble Hembree
Hattiesburg

Follow Paul's lead

Editor:

I have great respect and admiration for W.A. Criswell because of his many years of service. Criswell believes in the infallibility of the Bible and in other fundamentals of our faith,

and for that I commend him. The only thing that I hold against him is his belief that the pastor should be a ruler. I do not believe that a pastor should be a ruler. He is to be a servant of God and a shepherd of the flock that he pastors.

Peter wrote that pastors should feed the flock of God willingly and with ready minds. They should not be "lords over God's heritage, but examples to the flock" (1 Pet. 5:2-3).

Paul wrote that a pastor is to be "blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed" (Titus 1:7). Paul, in writing his epistles, referred to himself as a servant of God, never as a ruler.

Jesus himself said that he came to minister, not to be ministered to (Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:43). Since Jesus was a faithful servant when he was on the earth, then preachers should be faithful servants of God as well. They should not act like kings, as if they own the churches they pastor. Christ is the head of the church and the chief shepherd. The pastor is merely an undershepherd and an overseer. He is to preach the Word and be consistent in prayer. If he is faithful, then he will hear Jesus say to him, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Kevin Waller
Bude

Miss. Baptist Convention (1993)

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|---------------|--|
| Churches | 38,741 | | 1,994 | |
| Baptisms | 349,073 | | 14,274 | |
| Membership | 15,404,621 | | 693,293 | |
| Receipts (total) | \$5,384,132,020 | | \$252,359,555 | |
| Missions (total expenditures) | \$761,639,840 | | \$39,547,367 | |

Arrows indicate % change from previous year

Source: Uniform Church letters as reported to the Baptist Sunday School Board

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Alta Woods Church, Jackson, hosts March 28-31 discipleship institute

An extravaganza of training in various Discipleship Training and family ministry tools will be held March 28-31 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson. Entitled "Institute for Christian Discipleship," the four-day event is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Discipleship and Family Ministry Department.

Leaders for the institute will be consultants from the Baptist Sunday School Board, including T.W. Hunt, Ralph Hodge, Jay Johnston, J. David Carter, Johnny Jones, Don Atkinson, and Todd Nelson.

The institute schedule will include multi-day courses, as well as one-hour classes. The program also features a Monday evening Discipleship Rally and Wednesday evening prayer service led by Hunt.

A special highlight of the event will be Senior Adult Day, scheduled for March 31. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with selective conferences offered at 9 a.m.,

10:10 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 1 p.m. A rally at 2:15 p.m., led by author Irene Endicott, will end the day. Cost is \$10 per person, including lunch.

Multi-day courses, with cost where applicable, are: MasterLife, Mon.-Thurs., \$95; MasterBuilder, Mon.-Tues., \$75; Experiencing God, Mon.-Tues., \$25; LIFE Support, Mon.-Tues., \$35; Fresh Encounter, Tues.-Wed., \$35; Christian Sex Education, Tues.-Wed.; Entrepreneurial Church Leadership, Tues. afternoon, repeated at night; The Bible Speaks to End Times, Wed., 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Disciple Youth, Wed.-Tues., \$45; MasterLife Refresh, Wed. 1:30 p.m.-Thurs., noon; and The Mind of Christ, Thurs., 9 a.m.-3 p.m., \$15.

A different selection of one-hour session classes will be offered Monday and Tuesday evenings. Each evening series will be repeated the following afternoon. Topics offered Monday

evening (repeated Tuesday) are Single Parenting, Master Your Money, New Member Training, TeamKid, and Adventure Week. Classes offered Tuesday evening (repeated Wednesday) are First Place, Helping Families Meet Needs, and Beginning/Enhancing Your Senior Adult Ministry. Sessions on leading various age levels also will be offered Tuesday evening.

Registration, including payment where applicable, for all classes are due by March 25. Reservations for Senior Adult Day and Wednesday night supper at Alta Woods Church also should be made by March 25. All other meals are "on your own."

Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mail to Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. For additional information, write to the above address or call Robin Nichols at (601) 968-3800.

Revival Dates

Liberty, Flowood (5199 Lakeland Dr.): March 15-16; services, 7 p.m.; Frank Pollard, Jackson, evangelist; John Cofer, pastor.

Holcomb (Grenada): March 18-20; youth revival; services, 7 p.m. nightly and 11 a.m. on Sunday; Ronne Robinson, director, Baptist Children's Village, evangelist; Bobby Irvin, music; Randy Adey, pastor.

Gooden Lake, Belzoni: March 20-23; 7 p.m. nightly; Chuck King, Davis Road, Jackson, evangelist; Shelly and Irene Johnston, Jackson, music; Bill Hudson, pastor.

Puckett (Rankin): March 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Odus Jackson, Morton, evangelist; Bernie Parker, Columbia, music; Barry Ward, pastor.

Immanuel, Natchez: March 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch at noon, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Max Price, Raleigh, evangelist; Butch Hosea, Natchez, music; Jim Hill, pastor.

First, Calhoun City: March 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7

p.m.; Dean Register, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Tommy Lane, Coldwater, music; Anthony Kay, pastor.

Hollandale (Washington): March 20-23; services, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Buford Easley, New Orleans, evangelist; John and Lisa McDaniels, Memphis, music; Greg Williams, pastor.

Emmanuel, Grenada: March 20-23; services, noon and 7 p.m.; Bobby Douglas, Columbus, evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music; Clarence Cooper Jr., pastor.

Bethlehem, Laurel; Oakland Grove, Laurel: simultaneously; March 20-23; Sunday, Bethlehem, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Oakland Grove, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., Bethlehem and Oakland Grove, 7 p.m. nightly; dinner served in Fellowship Hall, Sunday, noon; Dave Walton and Don Stanley, both of Spartanburg, S.C., evangelists; Bethlehem, Jimmy Knight, Laurel, music; Oakland Grove, Ron Hamilton, Laurel, music; Bethlehem, Walton Douglas, pastor; Oakland Grove, Jimmy J. Jones, pastor.

Central, Golden: March 27-30; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7

p.m.; John Walker, Winona, evangelist; Judy Humphries, Central, music; Ralph Culp, pastor.

Harmony, Crystal Springs: March 27-30; Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dale Patterson, Pensacola, Fla., evangelist; Lewis O'Neal, Clinton, music; Clark Stewart, pastor.

Agricola (George): March 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ed Lacy, evangelist; Bruce Worrell Jr., pastor.

Phillipston (Leflore): March 27-30; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ralph Cain, Mathison, evangelist; Lester M. Jeffers, pastor.

Mt. Gilead, Meridian: April 10-15; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Albert Wilkerson, Memphis, evangelist; Max Burris, Meridian, music; Jim Smith, pastor.

Midway, Newton: Youth revival; March 12-13; Saturday, youth fellowship, 6 p.m.; worship, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Chuck Provine, Ft. Worth, Texas, evangelist; Wayne Miley, pastor.

Unity Church, Pike Association, has called **Jimmy T. Smith Jr.** as pastor, effective Feb. 20. He goes to Unity Church from Hepzibah Church, Lawrence Association. Smith is a graduate of William Carey College.

 **Jimmy T. Smith Jr.** is a man with dark hair, wearing a white shirt and a dark tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera.

Clifford E. Allred has been called as pastor at **Knox Church**, Tylertown, effective Feb. 27. He is pursuing his doctorate degree at New Orleans Seminary. Scott Holder, former pastor, was called as pastor at **North Long Beach Church**, Long Beach.

Dan T. Guest, minister of music, **Bowmar Avenue Church**, Vicksburg, retired Dec. 31, 1993. He and his family now live in Grenada.

West Corinth Church, Corinth, has called **Shawn Bigham** of Ecru as minister of music and youth effective Feb. 27. His previous place of service was First Church, Troy. He is currently attending Blue Mountain College.

First Church, Terry, has called two new staff members. **Mark Sandifer**, minister of youth/activities, is a graduate of Mississippi College and received a master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary. **Johnny Speedling Jr.**, minister of music, is a graduate of William Carey College and holds a master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary.

First, Yazoo, continues to mark 150th

First Church, Yazoo City, will celebrate its 150th anniversary throughout 1994. Church minutes from 1844 indicate it was the first Baptist church in the community.

Harold Shirley, former pastor, will preach March 13 at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. He currently lives in Rock Hill, S.C.

Another former pastor, **Wilmer C. Fields**, will preach April 10. **James F. Yates** will return to his former pulpit Aug. 21. Other guest speakers will include **Clifton Perkins** and **Zig Ziglar**.

Virginia Fellowship meets for first time

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Virginia Baptists uncomfortable with the more conservative direction taken by the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979 can find a new home in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, speakers said at the first meeting of the CBF's state organization.

"In the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship we have a fellowship of missions-minded people who are seeking the will of God for our lives," said layman Jan Levy of Radford. His comments were echoed by other program headliners during the Feb. 25-26 meeting at Second Church, Richmond, Va.

The two-day meeting was the first formal gathering of the Virginia Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the state affiliate of the three-year-old national organization of moderates. Earlier meetings have been informal and unstructured.

During a brief business session a constitution and bylaws were adopted and budget needs presented. But the focus of the more than 400 participants was on the mission work of the Fellowship and its distinction from trends in the SBC.

"The message that needs to go out to Baptist churches is: to what degree can we be faithful to Christ and yet compromise convictions? To what degree can we corrupt the gospel to which we've committed ourselves?" said Keith Parks, missions coordinator of the national Fellowship.

Being a "free and faithful" Baptist does not mean freedom to disregard absolutes, said Parks. "It really means you have so mastered the absolutes that you are free in

the way you express them.

"This freedom frees us from human institutions that would define how we worship God and how we relate to God," he said.

The Fellowship is "another alternative which gives our people hope," said Thomas McCann, pastor of First Church, Martinsville, Va., noting that moderate Southern Baptists are "ugly stepchildren in a

family that is no longer ours."

"The Southern Baptist Convention as I have known and loved it is dead — it is gone — it has passed from our time and will not return," said James Baucom Jr., pastor of Warsaw (Va.) Church.

"But I'm not willing to wander aimlessly anymore.... I long for a land where Baptists are free and faithful," he said.

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Staff Changes

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Notice of Position Available

The First Baptist Church of Fort Myers, Florida, is receiving recommendations and applications up to May 15, 1994, for a pastor to lead the church into the twenty-first century.

This 102 year old historic church located in downtown Fort Myers, has a congregation of 700 members, and an annual budget of \$825,000.00. The church supports the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Sunday morning services are broadcast live on the local NBC affiliate. A new 33,500 square foot Family Life Center is under construction.

Interested individuals should submit a letter application to:

Pastor Search Committee
First Baptist Church of Fort Myers
Post Office Box 204
Fort Myers, Florida 33902

Applications should include a personal resumé, including at least the following:

1. A personal history.
2. Academic history, including special achievements.
3. Work history, with emphasis on responsibility and compensation received.
4. Professional certifications and affiliations.
5. Experience and affiliations with church related organizations.
6. Civic and community involvements.
7. Date you would be available.

In general, full information is preferred. Detailed responses will assist the Search Committee in evaluating candidates. If out-of-area applicants are accepted for interview by the Committee, appropriate travel allowances will be available.

Questions regarding this position may be directed to:

T. Wainwright Miller, Jr., Chairman
Pastor Search Committee
First Baptist Church of Fort Myers
Telephone: 813/656-0196
Facsimile: 813/656-4621

Names in the News

Rev. and Mrs. E. Jerry Slonaker will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on March 13. The celebration will be held in the fellowship hall of Bunker Hill Church, Marion County, from 2-4 p.m.

Randy Robbins was recently ordained to the gospel ministry by Rosen Heights Church, Fort Worth, Texas. He is currently serving as associate pastor of Rosen Heights Church. Robbins is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary.

Immanuel Church honors Arinder, 10-year pastor, with 10 special days

Tommy Arinder, pastor of Immanuel Church, Cleveland, was recently honored by that congregation for his 10 years of service.

A 10-day period of appreciation was kicked off with a charge to Arinder and the congregation by Lucius Marion, as he had done 10 years ago. Each day after that, a different department or organization took charge of special efforts for Arinder: on Monday, the Adult IV Sunday School class delivered an ice cream cake to him; Tuesday, the youths held a hamburger cookout at the parsonage, and the college department gave him a gift of

golf balls.

On Wednesday, the adult choir redecorated Arinder's office and presented him with a plaque; Thursday, the Adult II department presented him a book and a magazine subscription; the Brotherhood also gave him a book; Saturday, the WMU gave Arinder a gift certificate for name cards to be printed; and the children gave him an office globe.

Sunday, Adult III gave a picture/letter album and an offering for Arinder to use for benevolence; Monday, the preschool children gave him a tape of songs they had made; and the grade school children gave him an album of posters and letters. Tuesday, Adult I honored the pastor at his home; and the deacons on Wednesday presented him with a three-day retreat to Grenada Lake.

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Theological Seminary



Dr. Paige Patterson
president, Southeastern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Park Place is located on
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Phone: (601) 939-6282

Thursday, March 10, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Baptist hospital acquires pastoral care, counseling, education center

The Pastoral Counseling and Psychotherapy Center has been transferred to the Pastoral Care, Counseling and Education Center, under the direction of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) Pastoral Care Department.

Eugene Dyess, founder and director of the original Pastoral Care and Psychotherapy Center, transferred his center to MBMC's ownership after more than 25 years of operation. The PCCEC, at 336 Keener Street, now operates under the direction of Paul Stephenson, chaplain and director of pastoral care at MBMC, and Jack Follis, MBMC clinical supervisor.

PCCEC counselors are certifiable by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and/or the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. For additional information, call (601) 968-5146.

Pictured at right are Dyess (left) and M. Kent Strum, MBMC executive director.



Ron Chandler is Stewardship nominee

NASHVILLE (BP) — Ronald E. Chandler, director of stewardship for the California Southern Baptist Convention for nearly 20 years, is the nominee of the SBC Stewardship Commission search committee to succeed A.R. Fagan as president.

Chandler, if approved by the full board of commissioners at their annual meeting March 24-25 in Nashville, will become president June 1. He will work alongside A.R. "Rudy" Fagan until Fagan's retirement on Sept. 30, according to commission officials.

Chandler, 61, will receive \$81,000 in salary, Robert L. Ross, chairman of the five-member search committee, told Baptist Press.

The search committee included: Samuel J. Hodges, Hillcrest Heights, Md.; J. Dore Langley, Martinville, La.; Levi Parrish, Burton, Mich.; C. Gene Parrott, Lakewood, Colo.; and Ross.

Chandler has been president of the SBC Stewardship Directors

Association and written extensively in materials for the SBC Stewardship Commission. He has written numerous articles in varied SBC publications as well as stewardship Sunday School lessons for the Baptist Sunday School Board.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My husband isn't eager to pray or talk about God. He attends church and that's his limit. How can I help him?

ple, do things for others, etc. What's wrong with me, and how do I change?

Do you want a job, or do you feel it is expected of you by others? Our society tells us that it takes two incomes to be successful, but that is not true for everyone. Many people see a lifestyle like yours as their "job." As a therapist, I would have you answer your own questions:

— Is there something wrong with you?

— Do you want to change?

— Are you satisfied and fulfilled with your lifestyle?

— Who says you need to do more?

Each of us must find satisfaction and fulfillment. Like a runner, focus on your goal and your pace. If you want to run a different race, you must train for it. If you want a job, talk to people in different occupations, put out some resumes, and go on some interviews. If you don't feel comfortable, you can back out. You will then determine whether the job market is for you. Don't forget there are part-time opportunities that you could even do from your home. Laziness is an absence of work, not the lack of a job. You have a lofty position as a homemaker. May your number increase.

M. Canzoneri dies at age 96

Mabel B. Canzoneri, 96, of Jackson, died at her home March 6.

The Standing Pine native was the mother of Antonina Canzoneri, former SBC missionary to the Bahama Islands who retired in 1985.

Services were held at First Church, Clinton at 10:30 a.m. March 10. Burial followed in Lakewood Memorial Park Cemetery.

Additional survivors include two sons, Joe of Jackson; and Bob of Columbus, Ohio.

Memorials may be made to the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

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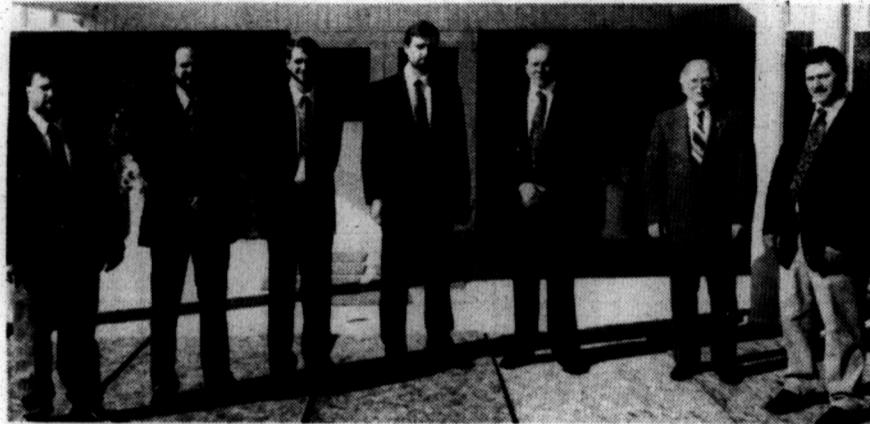
Schedule Your Group's Spring Tour Now!

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name and address not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Just for the Record



Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, recently held a note burning ceremony for its new Family Life Center and Sunday School rooms. A \$250,000 building was constructed and paid for in exactly one year. From left are Larry Bell, building committee chairman; Wayne Sojourner, chairman of deacons; Clark Stewart, pastor; and Charlie Sojourner, chairman of trustees.



Central Church, Golden, held dedication services and an open house for its family life center on Jan. 30. Over 400 attended the open house. The total cost for the family life center was \$227,000. Building committee members, pictured, are Rocky Hughes, Davy Ginn, Jeff Mahan, Kane Harris, Tim Burton, contractor, Ralph Culp, pastor, and Mackey Massey.

Cowart Church, Charleston, will have homecoming and dedication of a stained-glass mural given by the family of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Etheridge, March 20, at 11 a.m. The speaker will be O.B. Robertson, former pastor. Lunch will be served following the service.

The William Carey College Theatre will present the drama "1918" March 9-11 at 8 p.m. in the O.L. Quave Theater on the college's Hattiesburg campus. Regular admission is \$6, while the cost to non-Carey students and college employees is \$3. For reservations, call 582-6221.

Twenty-one cast members

Supper fellowship helps bivocational ministers/wives

A bivocational ministers/wives supper fellowship for Area 5 will take place March 25 at Shoney's Restaurant, High Street in Jackson. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude at 9.

After supper there will be training, focusing on worship and planning skills.

There is no cost for the meal, sponsored by the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. No pre-registration is required.

from the youth of **First Church, Flowood**, recently hosted Late Nite Extra for Rankin County. They presented the program "Snow Right and the Seven Wrongs." The youths will present "Snow Right and the Seven Wrongs" March 13 at 6 p.m., at Calvary Church, Columbia. For more information, call 939-4266.

Georgetown Church, Copiah Association, set a goal of \$3,630.30 for its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The total of \$3,994.91 is the highest amount ever received. Gene Erwin is pastor.

Calvary Church, New Augusta, will host the annual L.K. Turner memorial services on March 13. The Davis Trio of Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula, will be the featured singers. The surviving children of L.K. Turner, who was pastor of Calvary and other churches in Mississippi and Alabama, will have charge of the services. They are Roland D. Turner, Pascagoula, message; G.E. Turner, Pascagoula, and Roudet O. Turner, Tyler, Texas, congregational singing; and Teresa Dossett, Mobile, pianist. Din-



ner on the grounds will be served at noon and singing will continue until 3:30 p.m.

Goodyear Church, Picayune, will host the third annual Spring Bible Conference, March 13-16. The times are Sunday, 11 a.m., 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Tues. and Wed., 7 p.m. Speakers are Landrum P. Leavell, New Orleans Seminary; Moody Adams; Larry Robertson; Poplarville; Jerry Swimmer; James Messer; Pat Porter; and John Brock. Arlis F. Grice is pastor. For further information, call (601) 798-6193.

Over 100,000 collegiate athletic scholarships are available each year to high school and junior college student athletes. Contrary to popular belief, students don't have to be all-state to qualify. A new publication with factual information is available to take students step by step through the important process of getting a scholarship. It includes college and conference listings. For more information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the National Sports Foundation, 611A Willow Drive, P.O. Box 940, Oakhurst, NJ 07755.

First Church, Nettleton, held a dedication service for its new chimes on Feb. 27. The Carillon System from Van Bergen Bellfoundries, Inc. was donated by the Coggin family in memory of B.G. Coggin Sr. and Christine Coggin. George C. Johnson is pastor.

First Church, Picayune, will celebrate its 90th anniversary on March 27 at 11 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will be served at noon. The guest speaker will be Carless Evans of Meridian. Paul Padgett will have charge of the music. The church choir will present the 20th anniversary edition of Gaither's "Alleluia" at 4 p.m. Raymon Leake is pastor.

Calvary Church, Durant, will host a gospel concert featuring **The Pattersons**, March 12 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (601) 653-6461.

First Church, Vicksburg, will host a concert by **Missions USA Live** at 4 p.m. on March 13. The music/drama group is sponsored by the Home Mission Board. For more information, call (601) 636-2493.

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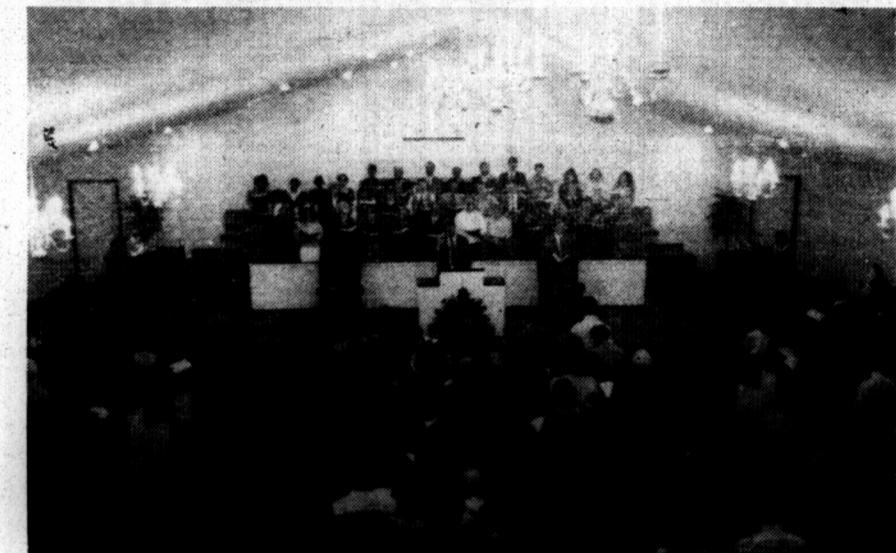
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GAs of Osyka Church, Osyka, made and donated Valentine angels to Civic-Club members Tammy Strickland and Stacee Ott (pictured) for use in the annual Senior Citizen Valentine Banquet. The angels are one of the mission action projects the girls participate in to earn a GA badge. GAs pictured, from left, are Abigail Wall, Megan Gill, Lana Schilling, Tiffany Strickland, Kristy Wall, Katie Cutrer, Elizabeth Wall, and Toni Schilling. Suzanne Cutrer and Kim Wall are GA leaders.



Holly Church, Corinth, recently dedicated a new 350-seat sanctuary. The church set a new attendance record that day with 220 in Sunday School and 307 in worship services. Marc D. Howard is pastor.

Barbara Chapman dies

Barbara Curtis Chapman, 82, of Jackson, died March 5 of respiratory failure. She was the mother of Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

Funeral services and burial were held March 7 in Jackson.

A native of French Camp, Mrs. Chapman was a member of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson. In

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Uniform Receiving God's gift



By Doug Bain
Romans 4

The faith experience of which Paul speaks was a new reality totally foreign to his former way of being religious. What is this incredible reality he refers to as "faith," this gift of a totally new posture that makes Jesus' life a present reality in Paul? A way of getting to rightness, a way of knowing, seeing, believing, committing, a way of being in touch with feeling and with healing, a way of grounding life in sheer gift, coming to God based on grace — this faith is sheer gift, not self-constructed. It must be experienced to be described, but then it cannot really be defined. Faith is the way in which we incline toward God. It opens us to the power of God, to resources beyond ourselves that do for us what we could never do for ourselves!

Faith, however, was not something foreign to the Hebrews. The father of Israel, Abraham, was "Father of the Faithful." It was true, however, that God's original representative people had gotten off track and had taken the good gift of the Torah (Law) out of the context of faith relationship, transforming it into an agenda of religious items by which to achieve approval from God. After the exile, Israel learned their lesson too well; instead of neglecting the Law, now they were centralizing it, externalizing it, making the Law an end in itself rather than the means by which to cooperate with God. By the first century, faith relationship was basically being neglected; but Jesus reintroduced it in a radically new fashion. Paul discovered this faith as he had been discovered by the risen Christ.

The promise guaranteed through faith (vv. 13-17). Righteousness is the experience of right-ness — not only being right with God, but also no longer anxiously bursting to prove oneself right or vindicated. Such a gift of "being right" comes only through the gift of faith. To drive home this significant truth, Paul makes reference to Abraham. The promise to Abraham did not rest on the method of "rule keeping" or performance of required ritual. Nothing Abraham could accomplish would merit the fulfillment of God's promise of a distinctly different representative people. The absolute confidence that Yahweh would be true to his promise was the only basis for Abraham's hope. That basis shifted the focus of responsibility and reliability off Abraham and onto God, requiring only from Abraham faith and faithfulness. The God who calls nonexistent things into existence is the one whose grace guarantees the promise. Faith, then, and not ritual rule keeping, guarantees the promise.

Faith despite incredible obstacles (vv. 18-22). Abraham hoped against all odds, trusting the promise for which he left home territory would hold true, that he would be the forerunner of a new people, a people of faith. When there was no obvious ground for hope, he took God at his word. He was 10 decades ancient, his wife was barren and aged. Who in their right mind would take that as evidence for a child on the way? Although Abraham's faith was not perfect and he did some unfaithful deeds (as related in Genesis), his inclination was basically faith-oriented. In the long run, no distrust made him waver. He grew strong in faith, fully convinced. And this kind of faith made him not give up on the promise of God, which was all that was required. Abraham's style of moving into the great unknown, on the basis of pure promise, is what Paul capitalizes on as a model for "having faith." Faith is taking God at his word so that life is built absolutely on that basis.

Righteousness for the believer (vv. 23-25). The point of the text is that the same principle that was true for Abraham holds true today. God's promise is the basis for our moving into the great unknown and for our becoming a presentative, elect, and covenant people. By unwavering trust we take God at his word that we too will see it come to pass, despite obstacles. We in fact have evidence in the resurrection of Jesus (v. 24) of what God will do for us. As we are in Christ, God's power will do the same raising to new life that he did in Jesus. But the principle is the same as it was for Father Abraham — by faith alone — *sola fide*. What radical and revolutionary truth — only by faith — and even that is God's gracious gift!

Bain is professor of biblical and related studies, Blue Mountain College.

Bible Book True light, true freedom



By Dan Howard
John 8

During a mission trip to Bangladesh my wife and I spent one night in Bangkok, Thailand. Entry to our hotel room was made with a computer card. We also discovered that in order for the lights to work, we must place the card in the slot by the door. After the lights were on, I took the card out of the slot and placed it on the dresser. Through a series of mishaps, we found we were to leave the card in the slot for the lights to stay on.

Just like that card, having Jesus in our lives is the key to having light in our lives.

Jesus: the light (vv. 12-16). At the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles, enormous candelabras were lit in the Court of the Women. This was a reminder to the people of the pillar of fire which accompanied the children of Israel at night during their wilderness experience. Because of the time of the feast Jesus was speaking, these candelabras may not have been burning. In the absence of this great light, Jesus made the claim, "I am the light of the world...."

Because Jesus is the light of the world, he is the source of true light. If we are to have true light we must have Jesus in our lives. The phrase "he who follows me" describes a disciple who is continuously following. As we follow Jesus we are promised that we will not live in darkness, but we "shall have the light of life." The phrase "light of life" could signify the light which gives life, the light which is life, the light which springs from life, or the light which illuminates life. All of these are true about Jesus.

The Pharisees questioned the validity of Jesus' witness because he bore testimony of himself. The Mosaic law required at least two witnesses to determine if a person was guilty or innocent. Jesus stated in verse 16 that his testimony was true because he had the witness of himself and his father.

Sin's slavery and true freedom (vv. 31-18). Some commentators think that verse 30 refers to true believers and verse 31 refers to those who made an outward profession but their faith was flawed. That the people in verse 31 did not have a genuine trust in Jesus may be implied when Jesus stated, "If you abide in my word..." The way Jesus said one could distinguish his true disciples was if they abide in his word. To abide in his word implies that we believably receive, lovingly obey, and faithfully continue to live by the words of Jesus. The result of living this type of life is that we will know Jesus, the Truth, and he shall set us free from the bondage of sin.

The Jewish people responded to Jesus' statement by saying that they did not need to be freed from bondage. This is the attitude of many people today who do not realize that they are enslaved by sin.

Jesus stated in verse 34 that the person living a life of sin is the slave of sin. Jesus is not saying an individual act of sin makes one a slave to sin; but he does indicate that every time we sin it increases the grip of sin on our lives to the point that we may become enslaved. Only the Son, Jesus, can set us free from the bondage of sin. When he has set us free through our belief in him, we will have the security of remaining in his house forever.

In verses 37 and 38 Jesus reminds the people and us that our actions and attitudes indicate to whom we belong. Because the people were still thinking about killing Jesus, this proved that they belonged to the devil and not to God.

Jesus makes a great claim (vv. 56-59). Jesus stated in verse 56 that Abraham anticipated with great joy the day Jesus, the Messiah, would be born, die, and be resurrected. The Jews responded in a sarcastic way by noting Jesus' youthfulness and asking if he had seen Abraham. Jesus made an imposing claim: to have existed before the foundation of the world and to be God. The words "I Am" are words God used to identify himself in the Old Testament. The Jews would have understood these words as a claim by Jesus to be divine. To the Jews this was blasphemy, a crime punishable by stoning. When they attempted to stone Jesus, God intervened. Through a supernatural concealment Jesus was hidden and protected from them.

Jesus is Light, Truth, and is Divine. Only he will set us free from the darkness and bondage of sin.

Howard is pastor, Woodville Church, Woodville.

Life and Work Saved!



By Billie Buckley
Luke 19

The day I was saved the preacher told us about a man named Paul being in jail. He had a chance to escape, but he didn't. The jailer was so surprised that he asked Paul, "What can I do to be saved like you?"

Those words got my attention because I also needed to know how to do that. Paul explained it simply enough through the revival preacher that a nine-year-old little girl, born far away in Mississippi some 2,000 years later, could understand.

I reasoned that I was lost from God, but he was looking for me. I was told that God had a plan, and if I followed it, I could be his child and he could be my Father. I just had to believe that Jesus was the way to establish a saving relationship with God.

Luke 19 instructs us to recognize our lostness; react to his interest in us; reflect his presence; recall our experience of faith; and remind others of his plan and purpose.

Recognize your lostness (vv. 1-4). Zacchaeus was a tax collector, which meant he was a cheating, corrupt official of the Roman government. He was to the Jews a traitor — "public enemy No. 1." He had sold out to the Roman authorities.

Looking at Zacchaeus, we can recognize many qualities: his wealth, his cunning, his curiosity, his "shortness," and his hunger for something more in life. He must have recognized this need or lostness in his life, for he went to great effort to see Jesus when he came to Jericho. Even today, this is the first step to salvation — looking around and saying, "Where am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose in life? I need help."

React to his interest in you (vv. 5-7). Jesus found me at a revival in a church in Mississippi. Jesus found Zacchaeus in a tree in Jericho. Where did Jesus find you?

Jesus' interest in Zacchaeus caused him to come down just as God stoops down and takes us into union with himself. How did Jesus get Zacchaeus to do this? It was with an invitation that could not be refused. He invited himself to the worst-sinner-in-the-town's house. Why? Could it be because he knew Zacchaeus was seeking for a better plan than the one he was following — one of fraud and thievery.

Jesus took advantage of the interest that was expressed in him. Do we take advantage of sharing our knowledge of Jesus with others when they show interest in our Savior?

Reflect his presence in you (v. 8). Zacchaeus' actions and words demonstrate that he was saved. "Lord, Lord!" was his first response. What do these words indicate?

The greatest indication is a change of heart. No longer was Zacchaeus in control. Jesus was Lord and the controlling agent in his life. At this point, he had believed in the power and presence of Jesus of Nazareth to save him from being separated from God. Jesus had singled him out to establish a relationship — not by keeping the Jewish laws, but by believing that Jesus was the means to entering into the presence of God.

Zacchaeus' life truly reflected Jesus' presence because of his desire to pay back with a 400% rebate to those he had knowingly cheated, plus giving half of his net worth to the poor.

Recall your experience through faith (v. 9). Recalling our salvation experience gives us assurance that we are "saved by faith, not of works, least any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8).

This gives us power and authority to share our discovery with others. We need to be aware that there are those who speak and act like a Christian today who are not necessarily saved. We are not saved because of how we speak and act. However, speech and action can be expected to reflect our spiritual condition. How can you tell the difference? The real thing "bears fruit," or brings God and man together.

Remind others of his purpose (v. 10). Wasn't Jesus' purpose to seek and to save those who were lost, like Zacchaeus? Not for one minute do I think the meeting between Zacchaeus and Jesus was coincidental. It was part of the plan and purpose of God to bring us back into his family again, released from sin's power over us. Because of this new relationship, we are loved and accepted, relieved and restored, clean and beautiful in God's sight.

Buckley is a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.

capsules

ARK. PROCLAMATION SPARKS DEBATE BETWEEN BAPTIST LT. GOV., ACLU: LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) — Christian Heritage Week, set for Feb. 27 through March 5 in Arkansas, has sparked controversy between Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee and the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. Huckabee signed the Christian Heritage Week proclamation earlier in February while serving as acting governor. The one-page proclamation, requested by attorney Brenda Vassaur Taylor of Altheimer, Ark., cites Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and other American forefathers as "Christian statesmen of calibre and integrity who did not hesitate to express their faith." Huckabee, a former Arkansas Baptist pastor and former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, said he never anticipated the proclamation would cause concern. "We are one of 14 states so far who have simply issued a proclamation acknowledging the contribution of Christians to this country," he explained. "To simply recognize that a certain segment of our society has contributed to that society and allow them the privilege of being acknowledged and heard in a completely voluntary manner is not only appropriate but it is unthinkable it would be objectionable to anyone except 'Christophobics.'" Rita Spillenger, executive director of the ACLU in Arkansas, sees it differently. While acknowledging the proclamation does not violate the U.S. Constitution or state law, she questioned the proclamation's content and purpose. "I think it's misleading. I think it's distortion of history for a political purpose. I think it's especially misleading when it comes from the governor's office."

CROATIA'S FASTEST GROWING CHURCH, BUT NO PASTOR WANTS TO TRADE PLACES: KARLOVAC, Croatia (BP) — Ladislav Ruzieka is pastor of Croatia's fastest growing Baptist church. But not many pastors would trade places with him. His church building is 400 yards from a "no man's land" that separates Croatian and Serbian troops in a land wracked by civil war. "I watched the whole war from this window," the animated young pastor says, turning to the window behind his desk in a tiny second-floor office. "Twenty-five grenades landed within 100 meters of this building," he adds, describing the three-month siege of Karlovac by Serbian troops in October 1991. The exterior walls of the church still wear the scars of shrapnel from mortar shells bursting in the church's front yard. But Ruzieka, his wife Melanie, and their 5-year-old daughter refused to leave. At stake, he believes, was their credibility as believers and his as a pastor. "If I had left I could never have come back," says Ruzieka. "We just trusted that God would take care of us. The church must continue to go forward regardless of politics." Despite the danger and hardships, the church continued to worship, but not without difficulty. "People would not come," says the pastor. "There was no plumbing, the front line was next to the church, and there were no lights at night."

REBELS BOMB COLOMBIAN SCHOOL, KIDNAP MISSIONARIES: CALI, Colombia — Leftist guerrillas bombed an American school operated by Presbyterians in Cali, Colombia, Feb. 18 during a campaign of anti-American violence protesting the presence of about 250 American troops in Colombia. No one was injured in the blast, which occurred when someone threw a bomb over a fence around the school, said Randall Sledge, Southern Baptist worker in Colombia. During the latest violence, Southern Baptist missionaries in Colombia have not been harmed or threatened but are being cautious. "The main thing is not to be in the wrong place at the wrong time," Sledge said. "Pray for us that we'll have wisdom to be alert and to be careful about where we go and what we do." Two American missionaries with New Tribes Mission were kidnapped by guerrillas Jan. 16 near Villavicencio, Colombia, and remain in detention. Three New Tribes missionaries kidnapped last year in Panama also are still being held hostage.

BIBLE PORTIONS NOW IN 2,062 LANGUAGES: LONDON — The Bible or portions of it were available in an additional 44 languages by 1993's end, reported the United Bible Societies. The Bible or books from it have been translated into 2,062 of the world's estimated 6,000 languages. The complete Bible exists in only 337 tongues, however. New Testament translations total 799. At least 80% of the world's population have access to at least part of the Scriptures in a language they can understand, according to a societies spokesman.

BOY SCOUTS CANNOT REQUIRE OATH TO GOD, COURT RULES: LOS ANGELES (ABP) — The Boy Scouts of America cannot exclude members who refuse to swear duty to God, a California appellate court ruled Feb. 28. The 4th District Court of Appeals allowed 12-year-old twins Michael and William Randall of Anaheim to remain Boy Scouts. The boys had been kicked out for refusing to recite "God" in the Scouts' oath. The court ruled that Scouting is essentially a business and therefore cannot discriminate based on religious belief. The boys were kicked out in 1991 and reinstated by a lower court in 1992. The Boy Scouts appealed the ruling, now upheld by the appeals court. Last December, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear another challenge to the Scouts' requirement that members affirm a belief in God. In that case, the high court left standing lower court rulings that a federal anti-discrimination law did not apply to the Boy Scouts. The case involved an Illinois youth, Mark Welsh, an agnostic, who was prevented from joining a suburban-Chicago Cub Scout pack for refusing to sign a pledge promising "to love God."

Pollard urges preachers "to sit where people sit"

NASHVILLE (BP) — To help people relate to and enjoy sermons, the preacher must learn to love and relate to people, two Southern Baptist pastors told 175 of their peers attending a nationwide preaching conference in Nashville Feb. 14-16.

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, and **Dean Register**, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, were two of the session leaders for the National Conference on Preaching and Worship at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Pollard said he believes preachers need to know how they feel about the people they are preaching to in order to help the people relate to their sermons.

"As you share the Word of God, that may be the best thing you do for them. When you are standing before people, you are doing something no one else is going to do for them," he said.

Pollard said he spends a part of each Saturday "sitting where the people sit," to consider what a recent widow will hear when he preaches on Sunday or what needs a specific 15-year-old boy will have.

"The Word of God is relevant; you don't have to make it relevant. But if you are thinking about specific people, you have to remember their needs as you preach.

"Somehow we have to entertain the idea we will preach without

notes," he continued. "We will talk with them rather than reading from notes. Can you see Jesus Christ standing on the side of a mountain saying, 'Blessed are the ... uh...' and then looking down at his notes?"

Pollard urged preachers to look at people in the congregation while preaching and in doing so to say, "I care." To do that, he said he does not memorize sermons. "I learn them," he said.

Humor can play a significant role in relating to persons from the pulpit, he observed.

"Relating to people by humor is a national thing for us," he said. "Do you know what this nation does when it faces crises? People begin to pray and they tell jokes."

But, he cautioned, "We have to know our limits. Some of us just can't tell stories."

Pollard also said there is "some danger in saying my big goal is to get people to enjoy sermons. We communicate that they are customers, that we are going to sell a product. We don't need to make religious customers out of people who ought to be a congregation. Some of our printed programs look like we are trying to sell, to make religious customers out of stewards of God.

"The way to see worship is not as platform performers and an audience. When worship takes place, the people in the congregation are the performers, God is the

Hawaii will suffer boycott if same-sex marriage laws pass

TUPELO (EP) — The American Family Association (AFA) will encourage its 1.8 million members to boycott Hawaii if the state legislature fails to enact laws forbidding same-sex marriages.

The Hawaii Supreme Court ruled last year that homosexuals should be allowed to marry unless there is a "compelling state interest" at stake — an issue now under consideration in the legislature.

AFA's founder, Donald Wildmon, said, "We feel that those who believe in traditional mar-

riage between heterosexuals would observe the boycott and it would receive wide support. The possibility of Hawaii becoming a homosexual tourist destination will certainly turn away millions of others who oppose the legalization of homosexual marriages."

According to a new poll by Newsweek magazine, opposition to legally sanctioned homosexual marriages is growing in America; 62% of Americans oppose gay marriages, up from 58% in an 1992 survey.

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audience, and the people on the platform are prompters," he said.

"Lead people to understand this is a service of worship, and they are the ones who are speaking to God."

Pollard reminded conference participants that "God understands we are not perfect. The church is the place where we have been loved, accepted, and forgiven when we were unlovable, unacceptable, and unforgivable, so we should be loving, accepting, and forgiving."

Pollard said preaching can be aimed at behavioral change, but "it is the Lord who changes us. It is the Word of the Lord he uses to tell us how to change."

"Believe God can change people," he encouraged preachers. "We are products of our decisions. People are the only creations God didn't finish."

"God gave to us the dignity and the danger of decisions. We finish our own creation by what we decide to do," Pollard said.

Register reminded pastors "preaching is not merely what we do; it is who we are. What we preach is mightily reinforced or negated by the life we live."

He urged pastors to model love for others, adding: "The atmosphere of our church is so often a reflection of who we are as leaders."

Register discussed the three needs he believes every church member has in common: to be loved, to be valued by others, and to express love to others through ministry.

He also suggested five "moves that make a difference" in understanding and loving church members: 1) Ask Jesus to give you a passion for people (Matt. 9:36-38); 2) Realize that love is more devotion than emotion (Luke 6:33-35); 3) Scrutinize your motive when you preach mad (Jonah 4:2, Prov. 16:2); 4) Prescribe a solution when you point out a problem (Prov. 15:2); 5) Spend time with a mentor who models compassion (Prov. 11:14).

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